

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 10-13 are presently pending in this application, Claims 2, 7 and 9 having been canceled, Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 11 having been amended, and Claims 12 and 13 having been added by the present amendment.

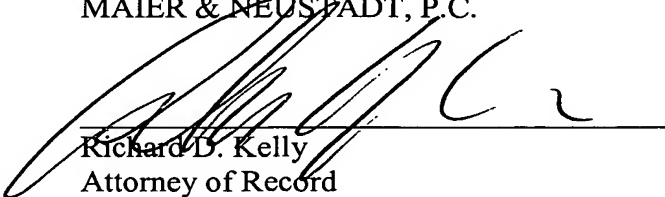
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ikebe et al. (U.S. Patent 5,390,632). However, Claims 2-5 and 7-11 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

First, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 2-5 and 7-11 include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in Claims 2 and 9, respectively. In addition, Claims 1 and 6 have been amended for further clarification, for example, as supported by the specification, page 12, lines 13-15; Claims 3, 5 and 11 have been amended to be consistent with the amendments to Claims 1 and 6; and Claims 12 and 13 depending from Claims 1 and 6, respectively, have been added. Claims 12 and 13 are believed to find clear support, for example, in the specification, page 13, lines 8-15. Consequently, Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 10-13 are believed to be allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that Claims 2, 7 and 9 be canceled without prejudice. If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the amendments presented above, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually agreeable language and expedite the prosecution of the present application.

In light of the prior indication of allowable subject matter and in view of the amendments presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard D. Kelly', is written over a horizontal line.

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